

## Minutes of NGOC Committee Meeting January 10<sup>th</sup> 2011

**Present:** Pat McLeod, Dave Hartley, Roger Coe, Alan Brown, Gill James, Pat Cameron, Carol Stewart, Paul Taunton, Caroline Craig, Greg Best.

1. **Apologies:** John Fallows, Ellen Starling.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting:** Minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> October meeting were accepted.
4. **Matters arising/Actions not completed or covered elsewhere:** Neil had spoken to Chris and was happy to continue as SWOA rep.
5. **Chairman's Report:** At least some committee members plan to attend CROESO 2012, and would be willing to help.  
**Action:** Pat M will reply to Pam to say that we're willing to help in principle.
6. **Secretary's report:** It was agreed that Gloucester Sports are welcome to come to an event, but should be warned that most events only have around 100 competitors (and orienteering equipment is a specialist market) so it may not be cost-effective for them. There may also be a fee to pay for having traders in Forestry Commission areas.  
**Action:** Caroline will reply to Ian at.
7. **Treasurer's report:**
  - (a) **Knockalls Income:** We appear to be missing some entry fees from Fabian 4, from the regional event at Knockalls.  
**Action:** Pat M will chase this up.
  - (b) **O-game account:** It was agreed to send £575 to Oxfam or DEC for Pakistani flood relief. See also 13(b) below.
  - (c) **Bank mandate:** Carol had been told that we can't sign up to Internet banking while requiring two signatories for transactions. Now that the account is a Business Account, rather than a Club/Society account, it should no longer be necessary to have it set up this way. Since the account is audited annually, we are happy to accept a single signature. The proposal is therefore to have three signatories (Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary as before) but only requiring one to sign for each transaction, or two for large transactions. We can then have Internet banking, which Carol will manage.  
**Action:** Carol will ask HSBC to alter the account in this way.
  - (d) **Forestry Commission Agreement:** Roger had applied for access for all 2011 events in December, to take advantage of the old agreement. Since the 2011 agreement is a 1 year deal, we expect now to pay the new rates for these events. However, the agreement is much better than that previously proposed by the FC, so we will still not have to increase entry fees for this year. The 2011 agreement doesn't go into as much detail as the previous agreement, such as fees for having traders at events.  
**Action:** Pat M will email Mike Hamilton to congratulate him on securing a much better deal, but also to ask about the plan for further details – whether more will be added or the 2011 agreement should be seen as an extension to the previous agreement.
8. **Membership Secretary's report:** Nothing to add.
9. **Events report:**
  - (a) **Fixtures:** Of 18 events planned for the 2011/12 season, 11 have organisers so far. The areas for the Chairman's Challenge (Danby Lodge South) and the October Informal (Blakeney Hill) were decided.
  - (b) **Mini League Update:** Our league events are getting bigger and becoming more work, but they are very popular so we should continue to put them on. Dave raised the possibility of combining with BOK and NWO to create a 3-way league, in a similar way to the West Midlands League, though it was observed that our mini league almost provides that because many members of neighbouring clubs come to our league, and even win. Paul suggested that the informal events could be much more informal if the organiser wished, to cut down on the work. Dave suggested that night events could be arranged to coincide with league events, so that the two organisers could share some of the work involved.  
**Conclusion:** It was decided to keep the mini league as it is, but fill up the gaps with smaller, simpler events – see also 15(a) below.
  - (c) **Club Nights:** We will wait to hear back from the University about their bid to Sport England, before attempting to set up a club night – see also 15(a) below.
  - (e) **Four-tier Structure Update:** Roger noted that all 2011 rules are now available on the British Orienteering website, although the changes from previous rules aren't highlighted. The Galoppen is registered at Level C but the rest of our

events are all registered at Level D.

**(f) PFO/SELOC Tour:** We were happy to lend areas, though there was some confusion about who received the original email.

**Action:** Paul will look for the emails regarding this, since it probably came to him.

**(g) SHI 2014:** Roger was not keen to commit to organizing a Level B event. Pat M mentioned a proposal from BritO that event officials are registered (organizer, planner and controller) for all events, not just for Level B and above. Everyone who had organized an event in the last 10 years would be registered at the level of the event. However, no Organisers course had been arranged yet, so we do not expect this to come in for a while yet.

No action: SWOA were so far only looking for expressions of interest.

**(h) Major Events / Double Gloucester:** The possibility of putting on a big branded weekend event was discussed. We used to run the “Double Gloucester”, then the Triple O Severn. Although we’ve not hosted the 0007 in recent years, Roger suggested that we might be able to host it every 4 years if we wanted, though we’d need to share the organization, e.g. with SWJS. It was noted that Hartpury College would make a good location for a sprint event and by combining this with a bigger event the following day (and possibly a night event in between), we would be able to hold a weekend of orienteering with less work than putting on two big events. Carol noted that the Mini League made around £2400 profit last year, compared to around £800 at the Galoppen.

It was left for the Fixtures subcommittee to decide whether we wish to have a bigger event in the fixture list for 2012.

## 10. Mapping report:

**(a) Kidnalls:** Paul voiced concern about the increasing bramble problem at Kidnalls and questioned whether we should reassess its use. It doesn’t feature in the 2011/2012 fixture list so won’t be an issue this year.

**(b) Danby Lodge:** It was agreed to ask Bob to update the map for the Galoppen, since it requires major updates and therefore a commercial remap would be better than continually making small changes. It was suggested that we could ask Valtor for similar tasks in future, as he had previously expressed an interest.

**Action:** Paul to ask Bob if he can make the updates.

**(c) Handicapping:** Paul raised the issue of score events (the Chairman’s Challenge and New Years Day event) being unfair to women, since we ceased to apply handicapping. Alan commented that previously nobody had seemed interested in the handicap results from the NYD event. Paul thought there was a published multiplier, which was not hard to calculate, which should make handicapping these events fairly easy.

**Action:** Paul will come up with a revised multiplier, that’s equitable. Carol will give him the old handicap method previously used for Chairman’s Challenges.

**(d) Coaching Course Enquiry:** Paul had received a call from Christine Vince about using Soudley as a location for a coaching course. We don’t expect access to be an issue for such training.

**Action:** Paul will respond to Christine and offer to print maps if necessary.

**(e) Ox lodge Wood status:** The map has been circulated. The area is very small (hence mapped at 1:2000) with currently few features. The owner had told Gill that he plans to develop parking space along a track, and also hopes to buy another strip of wood alongside. Anyone wishing to use the area should go through Gill/Chris for now.

**(f) New Areas / Support for Development Projects:** Various areas were mentioned as possible locations for small events as part of the development work – Park campus in Cheltenham, Guide activity centre in Cowley, Cirencester Park (Gill’s contact there had left, but had provided another contact at Hartpury College), Hartpury College, Five Acres, Aconbury Hill (David Curtis had emailed Gill about the possibility of using it), Holme Lacey, top of the hill in Newent Woods. It was also suggested that some of Wye Valley OC’s old maps could be used for Kyla’s development activities.

## 11. Equipment Officer’s report:

**(a) Caravan:** Pat expected that the caravan won’t be worth attempting to repair and would be scrapped.

**(b) Carrying SI Controls:** Greg observed that it is difficult to carry large numbers of SI controls while hanging or collecting them. Paul suggested that “gripples” (essentially a strong metal cable tie) could be used for some events (e.g. in parks) to attach SI boxes to fences or trees, as SWOC do. Pat M suggested “SI stakes” could be another possible solution, as they are thinner and lighter than the stakes we currently use. However there are currently issues with displaying the number the correct way up and the plate for the SI box could still make them awkward to carry. Pat C suggested that an army kit bag could be a useful investment, as an easier way to carry multiple controls.

**Action:** Paul will pass details of gripples to Pat M.

(c) **Failed SI box:** No. 54 no longer works, which John hopefully knows about.

12. **Captain's report:** We now have three teams to compete against in the Compass Sport Trophy first round on 16<sup>th</sup> January – COBOC (very small), SMOC (very small) and WRE (whom we beat last year) so we're in with a chance of getting through to the final.

13. **Legend Editor's report:**

(a) **Legend:** The January Legend will be published after the Compass Sport Trophy event (to include a write-up about it). David Lee had contacted Greg to offer a history of NGOC in the Harvester Trophy and will contact Alan about getting it in a future Legend.

(b) **"Forest Challenge" Board Game:** 159 copies had been sold so far, including one to the USA and two to Berlin. Payments from abroad had been received in cash form but PayPal was mentioned as a possible safer alternative. Moritz in Berlin had redrawn the (previously hand-drawn) board on a computer and sent it to Alan. It was agreed that future profits should go to a new charity – the Woodland Trust and the National Trust were favoured. Alan hopes to expand into other English-speaking countries and possibly get the instructions translated into other languages – e.g. Sophie Best may be willing to translate into Swedish and Alan offered that she could choose the next charity in return.

**Action:** Alan will look into PayPal.

**Action:** Greg will ask Sophie about translating the game.

14. **Welfare report:** Nothing to add.

15. **Development Officer Report:**

(a) **Projects:** It was agreed during the teleconference to develop 3 projects, designed to be local, regular and consistent – Pat M had earlier voiced concern that we don't have much to offer new people if they ask us during a reasonable gap between league or informal events.

(i) in Cheltenham organised by Greg, on Saturdays (except when league / informal events are on, when people will be encouraged to attend these instead) – local helpers, areas (see 10(f)) and publicity will be needed;

(ii) in Kyla's locality during the week (mainly focusing on Juniors) – local helpers and areas (see 10(f)) will be needed;

(iii) working with the University – they have put in a bid to Sport England for a Sports Coordinator, who will appoint Sports Champions for each sport. We will wait to see whether they succeed, but still try to set something up with them even if their bid is unsuccessful, possibly linking up with Greg's events or holding club nights.

Pat M has written an article on Development for the January Legend, which will include requests for volunteers.

(b) **Development Plan Update:** In the new structure at British Orienteering, the current plan is for RDOs to be replaced with part-time coaches. Pat M voiced the possibility of bringing one of them in as Lead Coach.

16. **SWOA committee feedback:** None.

17. **AOB:**

**Website:** John, Eddie, Greg and Jeremy had a meeting. Jeremy will revamp the website such that various people can edit their section, rather than having to ask John or Eddie to do it every time. A prototype was expected around January or February. If students get involved, it might also be useful to have an area for requesting lifts, similar to the Google group.

18. **Next Committee Meeting:** Oxstalls Campus on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at 7.30pm TC016

The meeting closed at 9:40 pm.